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United States Embassy Skopje, Macedonia Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstrations on June 25, 26 and 27

U.S. Embassy Skopje informs U.S. citizens that the LGBT community will organize several demonstrations in Skopje in honor of Pride week:

- On Thursday, June 25, demonstrators will gather in front of the Government building at 13:15.
- On Friday, June 26, demonstrators will gather in front of the Public Prosecution building at 13:15.
- On Saturday, June 27, demonstrators will gather in front of the MRTV building at 13:15.

The LGBT community has been the target of violence on several past occasions, and in 2012 two LGBT activists sustained minor injuries during a demonstration.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Macedonia Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, at tel: (02) 310-2000 within Macedonia, or (+389) (2) 310-2000 internationally,

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (02) 310-2000.

- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.